



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Executive Registry

88-3967X

Office of the Commissioner

425 Eye Street N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20536

CO 235-C



OCT 18 1988

Judge William Webster
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, Virginia 22101

Dear Judge Webster:

It has been proposed to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) by an oversight agency that a one-hundred percent check of the names of arriving adult passengers against available national security/law enforcement lookout databases at international airports is not a valid operating requirement. The premises for this proposal are the fact that a one-hundred percent query is not required at land border ports of entry and the theory that use of profiling techniques would permit an effective lookout check if the names of roughly thirty percent of arriving passengers were queried.

INS emphatically opposes this proposal and regards a comprehensive airport lookout check as an essential counterterrorism/law enforcement measure. Profiling techniques, though useful in many ways, are not an adequate substitute for a brief check. This proposal, if adopted, would certainly have an adverse effect on Federal inspectional agencies' ability to meet their commitment to identify and intercept persons of interest to United States law enforcement and national security agencies whose names have been included in our database.

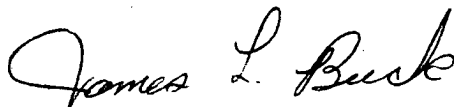
INS is preparing a white paper outlining its position on this issue in detail. However, assuming that your agency shares INS' position on this matter it would be most useful if a statement of the CIA's position were available to be appended to the INS white paper.

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While INS is committed and constantly working to improve the security of the United States' land borders, the compromising of available lookout capabilities at international airports is not regarded by INS as a valid means to this end. Your support on this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Alan C. Nelson
Commissioner *for*